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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - PINOCHET AND THE COLD WAR

¶1. On March 21, conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 129,000) carried an op-ed by international commentator Karin Ebensperger entitled, "Pinochet and the Super Powers." Quote:

¶2. "For more than 30 years we Chileans have not forgiven ourselves, accusing each other of allowing Marxists to reach power in 1970...or for the 1973 military coup. But we were victims of the Cold War and are not guilty.... The political differences that we had back then would never have reached the extremes they did...if Chile had not been dragged into the Cold War.... We were involuntary participants in the Cold War.... Chile was in the U.S. influence zone...when Salvador Allende took office 1970.... It was the first time that Marxists attained power, but not via the use of arms, and that is why Moscow made Allende a symbol....

¶3. "The United States was also responsible for the extreme tension that Chile suffered from 1970 to 1973. Its tactic was...to install regimes that obeyed Washington's orders and yielded to its political and economic interests. The frustration of the United States was that it was unable to manipulate the military regime.... As Allende...was a victim of the...Soviet expectations in the region, Pinochet was the victim of U.S. rage because the unpredictable general had no regard for Washington's interests in Latin America. The Soviets disavowed Allende by trying to use him for their global expansion goals and the Americans disavowed the military regime because it did not yield to their interests.... Chile suffered a sad experience and paid the consequences of being unable to escape the interest of the powers that led the world to the madness of an ideological war and a nuclear threat. Chile and Chileans were victims.... Let us give each other a brotherly embrace and respect our legitimate differences."

KELLY